



Rochester Hills Minutes - Draft

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Sister City Committee/Rochester

*Rochester Hills: David Blair, Theresa Mungoli, and Mark Skelcy
Rochester: Jessica Clauser, Debbie Jones, and Marilyn Trent
Youth Representative: Eliza Pizzuti*

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

5:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

Member Mungoli called the Sister City Committee/Rochester meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Debbie Jones, Marilyn Trent, David Blair, Theresa Mungoli, Mark Skelcy and Jessica Clauser

OTHERS PRESENT:

*Eliza Pizzuti, Rochester Hills Government Youth Council (RHGYC) Representative
Maggie Bobitz, President, Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Blair, that the Agenda be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 6 - Jones, Trent, Blair, Mungoli, Skelcy and Clauser

DISCUSSION

DISCUSS STORIES UNTOLD EVENT TO COINCIDE WITH THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Member Mungoli stated that Dave Word is the Executive Director of Rochester Avon Recreation Authority (RARA) and he had put together a proposal for the Committee that had been discussed at the last couple of meetings about what we could do in addition to Memorial Day. This Committee was very instrumental in convincing Ms. Bobitz to oversee the Memorial Day Parade for 2026 and the Mayors have been very successful in convincing her to do it one more year but Mr. Word had suggested the addition of an event called Stories Untold. She continued further that the Committee would pass that off to RARA to help manage that process. In a nutshell, the premise of Stories Untold is that fallen soldiers and their families would be located and commemorated on Memorial Day; there would be five from Rochester and five from Rochester Hills. There would be large posters installed in Rochester Municipal Park and Innovation Hills, and have 5 of those signs up with the story behind each person who gave their life in battle. There would be a

There would be a kick off event the week before Memorial Day discussing each of the 5 individuals to be honored; on Memorial Day, there would be a parade in 2026. She stated that plans for Memorial Day 2027 are not firm at this time. After Memorial Day week has passed, the posters would be given to each of the respective families. At its last meeting, the Committee had discussed about identifying 5 people from each respective community to be honored in conjunction with 2026 Memorial Day, especially with it being the Country's 250th Birthday.

Member Jones shared that she had begun researching, and had begun with old family names that are in Rochester - the Rewolds, Uptons, Knapps, because her thought was that they might still have family in the area. She stated the requirements of family being part of the celebration and honorees would have died at war. She noted that she had met Audrey Hinkle who had earned her Girl Scout recognition with her work at Rochester High School commemorating military veterans from the Rochester area. She continued that she had met with her before she presented to the Rochester City Council and that Ms. Hinkle had confirmed her interest to help with the Stories Untold research.

Discussion ensued by the Committee as to other resources such as Pat McKay at the Museum and his contacts; as well as the VFW Post, the American Legion Post, Veterans at the Eagles Club and the Rochester Historical Society. The Committee also discussed about having representatives from the different conflicts: WW1, WW2, Korea, Vietnam and recent conflicts as well as from each of the different branches of the military.

The Members talked about Mr. Word's request that both communities find fallen military veterans and their families to honor. Ms. Bobitz suggested publicity and flyers to get the word out to the community but Member Jones recalled that Mr. Word had requested that the Committee permit him to unveil this project to the public.

Member Skelcy asked who would be writing the story of the honorees and suggested that hopefully female military veterans might be located as well; the Committee Members talked about Mr. Word and his group at RARA writing the veterans' life stories.

Member Mungoli suggested that hopefully by the Committee's February Meeting there would be some names obtained.

Memorial Day Parade

Ms. Bobitz distributed a synopsis of the previous expenses for the Memorial Day Parade in the past since 2023. She stated that the total expenses for 2023 were almost \$6,000 but that was due to all the moving pieces - beginning in the morning that began in Rochester, parading down Harding to Livernois over to Veterans Pointe Park at Avon and Livernois; then in the late morning, the second half began on Adams Road and paraded north on Adams to Veterans Tribute in Oakland Township. She reported that the event had been cancelled in 2024 due to severe weather which freed up funding for 2025, plus the signage from 2024

was utilized. She stated that her fees are for her personnel, flags that are distributed to the parade attendees and the Marching Band is paid \$500 - which is rotated among the 3 Rochester area high schools, Rochester, Rochester Adams and Stoney Creek High Schools. She stated that because of the new City Council Members this year she would have to purchase new signage for the cars that are provided by the parade participants. She added that applications had been distributed to everyone that attended the Rochester Hometown Parade to prepare for the 2026 Memorial Day Parade planning. She noted that she would be also be emailing fillable applications to everyone in February and April as well. She continued further that they have really good contacts now for the WWII Vets in the military vehicles, weather permitting and that she would also email them to stay on their radar. She added that they would have to request MDOT to close Livernois.

The Committee Members discussed the day's schedule, Monday, May 25, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Rochester - Mt. Avon Cemetery, concluding at 9:30 a.m., lined up to parade down Harding to Livernois to Veterans Pointe at Avon and Livernois for Rochester Hills Ceremony and concludes with the Mayors of both cities speaking, perhaps a poet laureate, a neutral preacher and a wreath placed symbolically.

Discussion ensued as some surviving veterans not wishing to be honored, that the emphasis of Memorial Day would be to honor and remember the military personnel who died while serving their country.

2026 Meeting Schedule.

Member Mungiola stated that the Committee had been meeting for the last couple of years on the first Tuesday of the even months. Discussion ensued as to the Committee Member's individual schedules and that the Committee would continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the even months at 5:30 p.m. with the exception of August, due to the Primary Election - the meeting would be scheduled for the following Tuesday. She explained that the meetings are held at the City of Rochester Hills to comply with the Open Meetings Act to permit residents and the public to attend.

The Committee had discussed youth engagement in our communities and we have a representative from the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council (RHGYC), Eliza Pizzuti attending the Committee meetings. **RHGYC Member Pizzuti** talked briefly about the January 31, 2026 Souper Bowl Party to be held at the Rochester Hills Public Library Multi Purpose Room from 1-3 p.m. to benefit Neighborhood House.

The Committee then suggested the following topics were suggested for 2026:

- Kristi Trevarrow, Downtown Development Authority
- Meet with an Oakland County Commissioner
- Meet with Chris Ward, Oakland County Parks Director
- Education regarding invasive plant species
- Priority Waste

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, February 3, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, it was moved by Member Blair and seconded by Member Trent to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.